

Application No. 09/786,557

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~Reader of~~ chip card reader comprising:

- a central processing unit comprising means for emitting and receiving, on a communication bus having a single data wire, binary messages having a first format determined by a communication protocol for contact chip cards,

- a card receiving device comprising a contact card connector connected to the central processing unit by means of the communication bus, the contact card connector being therefore connected to said single data wire, and

- a contactless read head for contactless chip cards, comprising:

- means for receiving or sending, from or to a contactless chip card, messages having a second format determined by a communication protocol for contactless chip cards,

- a serial interface ~~that is~~ directly connected to said single data wire of said communication bus that carries the binary messages having the first format determined by a communication protocol for contact chip cards,

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- means for converting messages received on the serial interface and having the first format into messages having the second format, and, vice versa, converting messages received from a contactless chip card and having the second format into messages having the first format applied on the serial interface, and

- hardware and software arranged so that the contactless read head does not respond to a contact chip card activation command received on the serial interface, and responds to a specific activation command of the contactless read head different from a contact chip card activation command.

2. (Currently Amended) The reader ~~Reader~~ according to claim 1, wherein the contactless read head is further electrically supplied by a supply wire of the communication bus.

3. (Currently Amended) The reader ~~Reader~~ according to claim 1, wherein the contactless read head comprises means for being set into an inhibition state at its power-on, and for leaving the inhibition state when receiving said specific activation command.

4. (Currently Amended) The reader ~~Reader~~ according to claim 3, wherein the central processing unit comprises means for performing the following operations when receiving a detection signal of the presence of a card in the reader:

- sending, on the communication bus, a contact card activation command, and waiting for a first response;

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- if the first response is received, establishing or trying to establish a communication with a contact card,

- if the first response is not received in a predetermined time interval, sending said specific activation command of the contactless read head on the communication bus, and waiting for a second response,

- if the second response is received, establishing or trying to establish a communication with a contactless card.

5. (Currently Amended) The reader ~~Reader~~ according to claim 4, wherein said contact card activation command is a reset command according to the standard ISO 7816.

6. (Currently Amended) The reader ~~Reader~~ according to claim 1, wherein said specific activation command of the read head is a command which is likely to be never sent to a contact chip card.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The reader ~~Reader~~ according to claim 1, in which the contactless read head is integrated in a small size circuit arranged close to or inside the card-receiving device.

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10-14. (Canceled)